In responding to the call for Evidence for Review of the House of Lords’ Committees I shall confine myself to three points.

First. Ad hoc Committees only endure for a short period. Since it happens that in respect of some, but not all of them, there is political activity which is ongoing once they have ceased to be, it ought to be possible to reconvene them in response to Government Initiatives to follow up new developments. This should include cross examining ministers and writing a supplementary report if appropriate. If Members have left the House, died, or otherwise are unavailable they could be replaced. The House could then debate a successor report as now, after which it could return to suspended animation.

Secondly. Since the nature of a post Brexit World, which may, or may not include provisions about ‘Equivalence’, is so unclear, it is difficult to comment at this stage about how the House might respond to such changed circumstances. It may be that by the time the Committee reports matters will have changed.

Thirdly. The composition of the House’s Committees is controlled by the Party machines. While contemporary politics is unavoidably tied in with party politics, I believe, the Parties and their Whips Offices have too big a rôle in determining the composition of the House’s Committees and that steps should be taken to reduce this since it can lead to an inefficient use of the House’s expertise. The same is true of the rules relating to rotation.

What has happened in the House of Commons and perhaps more widely elsewhere should be examined, even though they may turn out not to be helpful precedents.

Please be in touch if you have any questions.

**14 March 2018**